

Minutes from the Dental Advisory Committee (DAC)  
DMAS 11AM – 1PM  
June 24, 2005

<b>DAC Members Present:</b>	<b>DAC Members Absent:</b>
Dr. Carl Atkins	Dr. Ann McDonald
Mr. Chuck Duvall	Dr. Cynthia Southern
Dr. Frank Farrington	Dr. Girish Banaji
Dr. Fred Hamer	Ms. Linda S. Bohanon
Dr. Ivan Schiff	Dr. Lynn Browder
Dr. Joe Paget, Jr.	Mr. Neal Graham
Dr. John Unkel	Dr. Neil Morrison
Dr. Karen Day	Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse
Dr. Kristine Enright	Dr. Terry Dickinson
Dr. Randy Adams	Dr. Vicki Tibbs
Dr. Thomas Spillers	
Dr. Zachary Hairston	

<b>DMAS Attendees</b>	<b>Doral Attendees</b>
Pat Finnerty	Cheryl Harris
Cindi Jones	Ana Perez
Cheryl Roberts	Kristen Fincher
Dr. Steve Riggs	
Tom Edicola	<b>Other:</b>
Bryan Tomlinson	Mary Dunne Stewart
Mary Mitchell	(Voices for Virginia's Children)
Tammy Driscoll	
Maryanne Paccione	
Rebecca Mendoza	
John Kenyon	

**Welcome/Introductions**

Mr. Finnerty opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. and introductions were made. Minutes from the April 22, 2005 meeting were voted on and approved as written.

**Launching *Smiles For Children***

Mr. Finnerty indicated that the theme for the meeting was “Launching the *Smiles For Children* dental program”. He thanked the DAC for its active involvement at every step along the way in the *Smiles For Children* program. He reiterated how much their work

and the time the DAC members had devoted to the request for proposals process, meetings, and reviewing of various documents was appreciated. The expertise and guidance provided by the DAC was a crucial element in the planning of the program.

Mr. Finnerty said that the DAC's active participation led to the following achievements:

- Moving almost a half million children from one dental program to another
- An unprecedented 30 percent increase in dental fees
- A new emphasis on dental services
- A commitment to simplifying administration of the program

The following implementation update was provided by Mr. Finnerty:

There was good news for and about dental providers. DMAS and Doral were working to have a seamless transition for providers by grandfathering existing providers and merging several networks into one. On June 30, 2005, the Virginia Medicaid's dental network was expected to consist of 1,109 provider office locations, and this represented a net gain of approximately 120 dentists. Five counties that previously had no participating dental service providers now have access to dental services: Brunswick, Cumberland, Madison, Patrick, and Prince George. The largest increase in dental providers was among general dentists as expected, but several specialties also increased in number. Mr. Finnerty indicated that DMAS wanted to focus on operational issues to ensure a smooth start to the program. Once the program is operational, DMAS and Doral will continue to recruit providers. It is expected that this task will be easier once providers see how the new program operates.

Doral held several training sessions around the State for providers to tell them about the new *Smiles For Children*. Training was held in Arlington, Bristol, Charlottesville, Norfolk, Richmond, Roanoke, and South Boston. Details were given to providers on the new DMAS and Doral websites for providers, flexible claims filing options, a local Doral office in Richmond, a dedicated call center.

Information was provided about Doral's Local Office in Richmond, which includes the following staff:

- Cheryl Harris—Project Director
- Anna Perez—Provider Relations Representative
- Kristen Fincher—Outreach Coordinator
- Dr. Ivan Schiff—Dental Director

Mr. Finnerty indicated that DMAS is committed to working closely with Doral. To date this has included biweekly staff conference calls, monthly top management conference calls, two onsite reviews, and a successful operational readiness review.

Mr. Finnerty reiterated that the new dental program was a top priority for DMAS, but that DMAS could not have done it without the DAC's commitment, vision and energy.

Promotional materials, including shirts, magnets pens and decals were passed out to DAC members to help with publicity for *Smiles For Children*.

Mr. Finnerty then spoke briefly about an upcoming Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) Workshop to be held September 28-30 in Philadelphia. DMAS and the Virginia Department of Health are collaborating with the Virginia Dental Association, the Old Dominion Dental Society and others, to submit an application and hope to be one of the 15 states selected by CHCS to attend this interactive workshop where states will develop a state action plan detailing strategies for improving the oral health of the Medicaid population. Mr. Finnerty indicated that he had been able to obtain letters of support from a wide range of individuals, including the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, several legislators, as well as from dental and medical associations.

Cheryl Roberts thanked the DAC, the DMAS Director and DMAS staff for all of their hard work and commitment to seeing a successful implementation of *Smiles For Children*. Ms. Roberts asked the DAC to call or email DMAS with any problems they might encounter with claims and payments so that Doral and DMAS could address these immediately.

The DAC, in turn, expressed appreciation for the new spirit of cooperation at DMAS and for DMAS' willingness to work with the dental provider community to implement changes which they had requested.

Mr. Finnerty asked the DAC to gauge the reaction of dentists to the new dental program and to let DMAS know how the new program is meeting their needs.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next DAC meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2005, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the DMAS Boardroom.